MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
16 May 1962

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: David E. Finley
Peter Hurd
Douglas W. Orr
Michael Rapuano
Ralph Walker

L.R. Wilson, Secretary
Charles H. Atherton, Asst. Sec'y
C.L. Martin, Counsel
Susan E. Bennett, Admin. Asst.
Gilbert Halasz, Recorder

The Secretary announced that he had just been informed of the death of H. Paul Caemmerer Phd. on Sunday May 13. Mr. Caemmerer came to work with the Commission in 1919 and was Secretary of the Commission from 1922 until his retirement in 1954. The Chairman and the Secretary were asked to draft a resolution for inclusion in the minutes, as a part of the official record of the Commission, and with a copy being sent to Mrs. Caemmerer. EXHIBIT A

I. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. General Services Administration
Public Buildings Service

a. Howard University Classroom Building - Revised Design

The Commission considered a revised design for the proposed Classroom building, which incorporated changes recommended by the Commission at its meeting on April 18th. Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, GSA, and Mr. Branch Elam, architect of the firm of Justement, Elam, Callmer and Kidd, made the presentation.

After comparing a rendering of the original and the revised designs, the members agreed that the revisions to the design had unified the principal facade. They further suggested the elimination of the six-inch recess in the central plane of the facade. Mr. Elam replied that there was no structural reason for the recess and he would eliminate the break in the wall surface.

Thereupon, the Commission voted in favor of the revised design provided the break were eliminated.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the General Services Administration setting forth the Commission's recommendation.
EXHIBIT B

b. GSA Regional Office Building, 7th and D Streets, S.W.
Proposed Refacing - Resubmission of Design

The Commission reconsidered plans to resurface the Regional Office Building with a cast stone screen. Mr. Nicholas Satterlee, architect, and Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, GSA, made the presentation of Mr. Satterlee's plans, using a scale model of the area in which the building is located, a sectional model of the proposed screen as it would be applied to the building, and a number of photographs and drawings.

Mr. Satterlee justified his proposal by explaining how the screen would disguise what he considered the inherent unattractiveness of the concrete building, which was erected as a warehouse. He also thought that it would create a more uniform appearance and bring it into a more favorable comparison with the new buildings which would eventually surround it. He pointed out that the pattern of the screen had been changed somewhat since the proposal was shown to the members on February 20th; and that it was proposed that a 14 foot aluminum panel fence be added on the roof to hide the irregular profile of the roof structures.

The members voted to reaffirm their previous conclusion that the addition of the proposed screen would not improve the appearance of the building to the extent that one million dollars cost would be justified. They felt that the unattractiveness of the building had been overstressed, and that a less complicated method of renovation be utilized such as repainting and installing new window sash, remodelling doorways, etc.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Administrator of the General Services Administration setting forth the Commission's recommendation.
EXHIBIT C

2. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

George Washington Memorial Parkway, Boundary Channel Bridge, Va.

The Commission considered a design for a proposed bridge spanning Boundary Channel between the north end of Columbia Island and the Virginia shore. Mr. Robert C. Horne, Associate Regional Director, and Mr. Charles Lessig, Chief, Architectural Branch, Region Six, National Park Service, made the presentation of the plans.

Mr. Horne explained that the bridge would be part of the changes to the George Washington Memorial Parkway system that were necessary due to the approach roads to the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. Mr. Lessig showed the members drawings and a rendering of the bridge. He explained that the design proposed the use of Class A masonry and a steel span similar to that in adjoining bridges.

The members were of the opinion that the general design was satisfactory, but expressed the hope that a method could be found to reduce the number of finish materials, especially in the combination of the granite quoins and fieldstone abutments. They voted to approve the design subject to further study of this factor.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Director, National Park Service, setting forth the Commission's recommendation.

EXHIBIT D

3. District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency

D.C. Realty Company - "Portal Site" Southwest Urban Renewal Area

The Commission conferred with Miss Anna Miller, Special Assistant to Mr. Phil Doyle, Executive Director, Redevelopment Land Agency, and Mr. Harold Leibman, architect of the firm of Lapidus, Harle and Leibman, regarding this firm's proposal for the use of the "Portal Site", on a triangular site bounded on the east by Twelfth Street, S.W., on the south and southwest by the new Southwest Expressway and Maine Avenue, and on the north by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Miss Miller explained that the design was selected in competition for a commercial project in the Southwest Redevelopment Area, and asked Mr. Leibman to explain the architectural conception of the plan.

Mr. Leibman pointed out the various features of the project on a scale model and drawings. He explained that the site comprised 6.32 acres, and that the four major buildings would occupy 37 per cent of the land, not including a raised terrace joining the four buildings together.

In the course of the discussion it was disclosed that the proposed transportation features of the project, i.e, the bus terminal, railway stop and monorail terminal, had not been discussed with the National Capital Transportation Agency. The Commission suggested that these features of the design should be coordinated with the Transportation Agency's rapid transit plans.

The members also suggested that the large amount of unbroken paved surfaces should be reduced. The Commission had no further objections to the design, but expressed a desire to see the designs of the individual buildings, when they were prepared.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Chairman of the Redevelopment Land Agency setting forth the Commission's comments.

EXHIBIT E

4. District of Columbia Government
. Department of Licenses and Inspections

Preliminary Shipstead-Luce Submission
Watergate Development, Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, New Hampshire and Virginia Avenues, N.W.

At the invitation of the Commission Professor Luigi Moretti of Rome, principal architect, and other representatives of the Island Vista Corporation met with the members to discuss the architectural plans for the proposed Watergate development.

Professor Moretti, speaking through an interpreter, expressed his admiration of the design of Washington, as a unique blending of three elements, viz: the grid pattern of streets, the French tradition of monumental composition such as the Mall, and the British tradition of joining nature to architecture through the use of parks, gardens and green spaces. He said that the philosophy of his design for the project was an attempt to utilize the latter element, and to arrange the structures on the site so as to preserve as much of the open, park-like nature of the surrounding area as possible. He felt that the use of buildings of curvilinear design would achieve this goal to a much greater degree than rectangular buildings.

The members of the Commission pointed out that they did not object to curvilinear buildings as such; their concern pertained primarily to the combined factors of irregular geometry of the buildings, and the resulting scale of their uniform height of 130 feet. They were of the opinion that it was possible to arrive at a better design for the proposed project by modification of the forms of the buildings to achieve a more disciplined geometric arrangement and form, and by varying the heights of the buildings.

After discussing the Commission's objections at some length, all of the parties agreed that Mr. Walker, Mr. Orr and Mr. Rapuano should meet with Professor Moretti at Mr. Walker's offices in New York City on Friday, May 18th to discuss possible solutions to the architectural problems. After that meeting it was agreed that the architect members would report to the Commission, and a report to the D.C. Zoning Commission would then be submitted.

4. Freer Gallery of Art
Inspection of Proposed Acquisitions

At the request of the Director of the Freer Gallery of Art the Commission visited the museum, where they inspected a number of works of art proposed for purchase. The Commission approved the items for purchase. EXHIBIT F

Respectfully submitted,

C.L. Martin

C.L. Martin
Counsel

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
16 MAY 1962

AM

9:30 I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

9:35 1. General Services Administration
Public Buildings Service

a. Howard University Classroom Building - Revised Design
(Mr. Branch Elam, architect of Justement, Elam, Callmer and Kidd; Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Architectural and Structural Division, GSA, PBS)

b. GSA Regional Office Building, 7th and D Streets, S.W.
Proposed Refacing - Resubmission of Design
(Mr. Nicholas Satterlee, architect; Mr. Snyder)

10:30 2. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

George Washington Memorial Parkway - Bridge Over Boundary Channel, Virginia (Mr. Charles W. Lessig, Chief Architect, Region 6)

11:00 3. District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency

D.C. Realty Company, "Portal Site", Southwest Urban Renewal Area (Mr. Daniel Driver, Urban Planner, RLA; Mr. Morris Lapidus and Mr. Harold Leibman, architects of Lapidus, Harle and Leibman)

12:00 4. Freer Gallery of Art

Inspection of Proposed Acquisitions

Resolution of the Commission of Fine Arts on the Death of
Hans Paul Caemmerer

The Commission of Fine Arts feels deep sorrow and loss at the death of Hans Paul Caemmerer, B.A., M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., who devoted thirty-two years of his life in assisting the Commission to perform its duties and responsibilities to the Federal and District of Columbia Governments.

Mr. Caemmerer came to the Commission as a clerk in June, 1919. He served as an assistant to the Secretary for two years, and was appointed Executive Secretary on September 7, 1922, and served in that capacity continuously until his retirement from government service on June 24, 1954.

Mr. Caemmerer brought to the Commission of Fine Arts the force of many talents and a great fund of knowledge of the City of Washington, its history and especially its architectural development. In his capacity as Secretary, he performed a multitude of functions, serving as administrative officer, public relations expert, editor of publications, and legislative adviser. But perhaps his greatest service to the Commission was his interest and knowledge of the history of the District of Columbia. A recognized authority and author of numerous books on the first planner of Washington, Charles Pierre L'Enfant, and on the development of the City of Washington, he served as the Commission's link with the past. He was also the inexhaustable source of information of the antecedants of Fine Arts matters considered by the Commission, dating back to its establishment.

By his tireless energy and skill in helping to formulate the policies and recommendations of the Commission, Hans Paul Caemmerer's contributions to the preservation and development of the beauty of the City of Washington will long be remembered.

The Commission of Fine Arts extends its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Caemmerer on the death of her distinguished husband.

EXHIBIT 4

Resolution of the Commission of Fine Arts on the death of
Mark Paul Deshayes

The Commission of Fine Arts feels deep sorrow and loss at the death of Mark Paul Deshayes, A.A., Hon., Ideal., Ph.D., who devoted thirty-two years of his life to assisting the Commission to perform its duties and responsibilities to the Federal and District of Columbia Governments.

Mr. Deshayes came to the Commission as a clerk in June, 1913. He served as an assistant to the Secretary for two years, and was appointed Executive Secretary on September 7, 1915, and served in that capacity continuously until his retirement from government service on June 24, 1945.

Mr. Deshayes brought to the Commission of Fine Arts the force of many talents and a great fund of knowledge of the City of Washington, its history and especially the architectural development. In his capacity as Secretary, he performed a multitude of functions, serving as administrative officer, public relations expert, editor of publications, and legislative adviser. But perhaps his greatest services to the Commission was his interest and knowledge of the history of the District of Columbia. A recognized authority and author of numerous books on the first planner of Washington, Charles L'Enfant, and on the development of the City of Washington, he served as the Commission's link with the past. He was also an instrumental source of information of the antecedents of Fine Arts matters considered by the Commission, dating back to its establishment.

By his tireless energy and skill in helping to formulate the policies and recommendations of the Commission, Mark Deshayes' contributions to the preservation and development of the beauty of the City of Washington will long be remembered.

The Commission of Fine Arts extends its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Deshayes on the death of her distinguished husband.

25 May 1962

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on May 16th, gave further consideration to the request of Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, to review the designs for a proposed classroom building to be located just north of the Home Economics Building adjoining the quadrangle of the Howard University campus. At the April meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts the members had recommended to Mr. Branch D. Elam, of Justement, Elam, Callmer and Kidd, architects of the building, that a greater emphasis be given to achieving unity in the design of the facades, particularly the elevations fronting on the formal quadrangle.

Mr. Elam showed the members a revised scheme in which the window openings were treated with added horizontal emphasis over the entire front elevation. The members of the Commission thought the modificationimproved the composition but felt that the continuity of the design could be further strengthened by eliminating the slight recess in the plane of the wall, in the central area of the elevation to the left of the entranceway. They believed that if this were accomplished the Commission could approve the design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Karl E. Wallace
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

EXHIBIT B

Honorable Earl C. Williams
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

24 May 1962

Dear Mr. Boutin:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on May 16th, further considered the proposal to apply a pierced cast concrete screen over the walls of the General Services Administration Regional Office Building located at 7th and D Street, S.W. At the request of Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, the members of the Commission conferred with Mr. Walter Meisen of the Region Three Office, GSA, and Mr. Nicholas Satterlee of the architectural firm of Satterlee and Smith. Mr. Satterlee expressed his hope that the Commission would reconsider its previous disapproval of the proposal on February 20, 1962, as he had been abroad at that time and was unable to present the proposed design in its entirety.

No new material was shown by the architect, however, and the members of the Commission saw no reason to change their previous decision, which had been made only after careful study of all the factors.

The Commission reaffirmed its previous belief that the building in its present state would not be improved sufficiently to warrant the expenditure of such a large sum of public funds. Besides possessing a somewhat commonplace architectural style, the principal objection to the appearance of the building is its great size. The Commission considers that the proposed decorative screen treatment would not overcome this objection but might give it greater emphasis.

As stated in its letter of March 6, 1962, the Commission would recommend that the outside surfaces be painted and that any additional changes be confined to those integral with the architecture, such as new window sashes, entrance ways, etc.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Bernard Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

EXHIBIT C

23 May 1962

Dear Mr. Wirth:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on May 15th, considered a preliminary design for the proposed Boundary Channel Bridge, which is to be part of the revised road system of the George Washington Memorial Parkway at the northern end of Columbia Island near the west end of the new Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Robert Horne, Associate Regional Director, and Mr. Charles Lessig, Chief Architect, presented the design with a rendered perspective and other architectural drawings showing details of the steel-arched span. The members gave general approval to the design but they had reservations about the number of different materials that were indicated for the buttresses and cantilevers supporting the pedestrian walk. They hoped that it would be possible to reduce the variety of materials to the minimum and that this recommendation could be followed as a general principle in the design of other bridge and road structures in the adjoining area, in order to achieve a simplicity of structure, and thus give emphasis to the appearance of the surrounding parkland.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Conrad Wirth
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D.C.

EXHIBIT D

24 May 1962

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on May 16, 1962, considered the designs for a proposed commercial center to be located on the "Portal" site, adjoining the waterfront south of the railroad tracks and west of 12th Street, S.W. Miss Anna Miller of the Redevelopment Land Agency Staff and Mr. Harold Leibman, of the firm of Lapidus, Harle and Leibman, presented the project.

Miss Miller explained that the proposal submitted by the D.C. Realty Company for the construction of a transportation center was selected on the basis of an architectural competition in which two other entrants had participated. The program called for a development, based on useage appropriate to a second commercial zone; but did not specify the inclusion of any particular functions, such as a transportation facility.

After discussing the design of the proposal with the architect, the members of the Commission thought that the general design and arrangement of the buildings on the site was satisfactory, but were somewhat concerned over the size of the unshaded elevated terrace joining the hotel and office structures. They suggested that the actual size of the pavement should be reduced or broken up to offset what otherwise might be an excessively hot and glaring space during the summer months.

The members thought that the more important consideration, however, was the concept of the project development as a mass transit center, and were surprised to learn that the competitors had not coordinated their plans with programs being developed by the National Capital Transportation Agency. They would hope, therefore, that the proposed plans for a transit center would in no way interfere with the metropolitan Transportation Agency's plans, which the Commission regards as having priority over individual projects. They would recommend, therefore, that the proposal be reviewed by and coordinated with the Transportation Agency before any final plans are made. The Commission would also like to follow the architectural development of the designs for the individual buildings, which were primarily schematic in nature.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Neville Miller, Chairman
D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency
919 18th Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT E

[illegible]

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, the Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

1. Lacquer, Japanese, Kamakura period, Negoro; dish with natural wood sides, three feet.

1 Lacquer, Japanese, late Kamakura period, Negoro; sake pot with bail handle and cover; inscription on bottom.

1 Painting, Chinese, Sung dynasty, 12th or 13th century, att. to Li T'ang; landscape with buffalo and herd-boy.

1 Painting, Chinese, Ch'ing dynasty, 18th century; scholar and servant beneath a tree.

1 Painting, Japanese, early Heian period, 12th century, Buddhist school; Fugen; ink, color and gold on silk.

1 Painting, Japanese, Edo period, Nanga school, by Gyokoto (1745-1820); landscape in ink; signature and seal.

1 Pottery, Chinese, Ming dynasty, about 14[illegible]0; celadon bowl with fluted body and foliate rim; molded plaque in center.

1 Pottery, Japanese, Edo period. Kutani, 17th century; vase, pear-shaped; decorated with over-glaze enamels; mainly red, with some yellow and turquoise.

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EXHIBIT F

1 Pottery, Mesopotamian, Rakka, 11th century; large stand, open-work, hexagonal, with iridescent blue glaze.

For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

David E. Finley

For the Commission of Fine Arts